

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /065 W

----- 059178

R 241150Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8029

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0877

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SU

SUBJ: SUDANESE CONCERN RE RAHAD PROCUREMENT

REF: STATE 080856, (PARA 5)

1. FONMIN USEC OBEID TOLD ME APRIL 24 FONMIN KHALID HAD RAISED QUESTION RAHAD EQUIPMENT WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM (REFTEL) ON BASIS GUIDANCE FROM KHARTOUM. OBEID CLAIMED SEVERAL MONTHS WOULD BE REQUIRED FOLLOWING OPENING BIDS IN MAY BEFORE "CATERPILLER" WOULD EVEN BEGIN TO MANUFACTURE ITEMS REQUIRED. THIS PROCESS WOULD TAKE SIX MONTHS SO THAT EQUIPMENT COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE HERE FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT GAP BETWEEN OPENING BIDS AND COMMENCEMENT MANUFACTURE WOULD BE AS EXTENDED AS OBEID INDICATED BUT CONFIRMED THAT EQUIPMENT COULD NOT ARRIVE BY START CONSTRUCTION SEASON NEXT SEPTEMBER. HE THEN REVIEWED HISTORY RAHAD PROCUREMENT IN SOME DETAIL, NOTING THAT HEAVY EXCAVATING ITEMS FOR MAIN CANAL WHICH SEEMED CHIEF POINT GOS CONCERN HAD NOT EVEN BEEN REQUESTED FROM USG UNTIL JANUARY, 1974. OBEID ADMITTED RUEFULLY HIS BIGGEST PROBLEM WAS GETTING SUDANESE "TECHNICAL DEPARTMENTS" TO DO THEIR JOB PROPERLY.

2. ACCORDING OBEID, FONMIN KHALID HAD INDICATED IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLEFOR "CATERPILLER" GIVE SUDANESE ORDER PRIORITY HANDLING IN MANUFACTURE BY PUTTING IT AHEAD OF OTHER PENDING ORDERS. AMBASSADOR SAID HE WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH INDUSTRY
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PRACTICE ON SUCH MATTERS BUT WOULD BE HAPPY INQUIRE INTO STATUS

UPON HIS ARRIVAL WASHINGTON.
BREWER

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